



Doris "Granny D" Haddock

EQUAL VOICE

A newsletter for those who walk the talk of campaign finance reform



November 2019

Executive Director's Message

Make An Investment in Democracy for 2020

The partisan last-minute veto of HB 706 this fall shows that doing Democracy work can be a long haul. We're constantly doing battle with anti-Democracy forces who want to suppress it, manipulate it, and even do away with it. But however frustrating, that's a battle I'm willing to fight, and I think you are, too.

So now we have to ask you a question. Have you made a donation this fall, or volunteered, to help in this fight? Can you swing \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month in 2020? We are launching our Regional Democracy Teams, making another attempt at an independent redistricting commission, trying to stop Executive Council donations from state contractors (yes, that's legal in New Hampshire), and pressuring state legislators to sign on to our agenda. All that takes money to support the office, the travel and the staff.



We're not in it for the awards, though I'm proud we've been recognized. In fact, we'd trade that in heartbeat, if everyone could vote who wanted to. And if the playing field was level for everyone.

When you receive your annual appeal in the mail, or by email, please give as generously as you can, and please consider a monthly gift to support us all year long in 2020. Thank you.

Olivia

Olivia Zink, Executive Director

Open Democracy and State Money-in-Politics Allies Receive National Award for Work on a 28th Constitutional Amendment

A contingent of New Hampshire activists received a national Citizens Leadership Award on Oct. 12, for their work on the town warrant article initiative started in 2014, followed by the passage HB 504 by the New Hampshire legislature. Passage of that bill made the Granite State the 20th state to call for a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United. Attending were Executive Director Olivia Zink and Rep. Ellen Read both of whom presented at the conference, and Ella McGrail, Jim Rubens, Erin Spenser, Corinne Dodge, Jim Howard.

The group also delivered signed parchment copies of the language of HB 504 to Senator Maggie Hassan, and Congress members Ann McClane Kuster and Christopher Pappas. Sen. Shaheen received hers in New Hampshire.

Contact Us!

Office Phone: 603-715-8197

Olivia@OpenDemocracy.me

Doreen@OpenDemocracy.me

Garrett@OpenDemocracy.me

Brian@OpenDemocracy.me

Follow & Join Us!

Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter

Open Democracy [OpenDemocracyNH.org](https://www.facebook.com/OpenDemocracyNH.org) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OpenDemocracyNH)

ODA: [OpenDemocracyAction.org](https://www.facebook.com/OpenDemocracyAction.org) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OpenDemocracyAction.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OpenDemocracyAction.org).

NH Rebellion: [NHRebellion.org](https://www.facebook.com/NHRebellion.org) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NHRebellion.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NHRebellion.org)

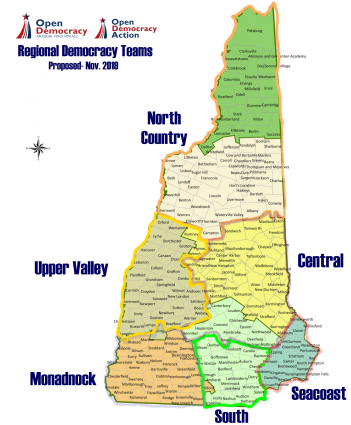
Haven't joined us yet? Visit any one of the websites' [Join pages](#)

Regional “Democracy Teams” Leadership Meeting November 14

If you want to *take action* and *make a difference* in money-in-politics in your community, we have an opportunity for you. Our first steps to established Regional Democracy Teams (RCTs) begin on Thursday, November 14. Open Democracy staff will be hosting an informal dinner to outline the program as we see it, seek your input, and to talk through the expectations of the teams. We'll be contacting some prospective volunteer leaders but if you don't get a call, we still want you to attend this meeting! Please [RSVP](#) to let us know you're coming.



These teams will meet on a periodic basis, plan local events, and take actions like walks. For instance, we may ask you to organize a short walk on Granny D Day, January 24, or when Democracy legislation is pending, we may ask you to meet with your local state reps or senator to speak with them about it. We hope you'll also reach out to groups of all kinds in your communities to talk about campaign finance reform and Big Money politics, and what your friends and neighbors can do to help. Can't make the meeting but still want to help? Call Brian Beihl at 603-620-8300 or send an [email](#) and let's make some change!



Ann Ravel Paints Bleak Picture of FEC Oversight, Asks for Work on the State Level

In a whirlwind visit to the Granite State, former Federal Elections Commission chair Ann Ravel spoke to supporters and visitors about the dysfunction of the rules and oversight board. Partisan politics

has hamstrung any meaningful action by the commission, so campaign finance violations have gone unchecked in recent years.



While she made suggestions on how to fix the FEC's problems, she also made suggestions on fixes for the state level, including an independent redistricting commission, and publicly-financed

elections. Ravel made that same appeal that morning to an assembly of House & Senate members, and an Executive Counselor, and even a representative from the Secretary of State's office. Also in attendance was former Maine Senator Roger Katz, who spoke about Maine's Clean Elections Law, which expanded publicly-funded elections in the state. See [our ODA YouTube channel](#) for Ann Ravel video.

Together, we fix it. and end the influence of BIG Money politics

- ✓ Establish small donor, voter-owned elections
- ✓ End gerrymandering, and modernize voting
- ✓ Eradicate Super PACs & neutralize Citizens United
- ✓ Expose anonymous Dark Money
- ✓ Eliminate Pay-to-Play lobbyist & contractor donations
- ✓ Enforce campaign finance laws & close loopholes



Updated “We the People” Agenda

Our “Million Dollar Bill” handout needed to be reprinted recently, so we took the opportunity to refresh the language and priorities for what we use to call the “We the People Agenda.” This has been made into a poster for our tabling events, and when speaking to groups. It has also been added to the underside of the million dollar bills. Oh, and don't forget to use the hashtag, #TogetherWeFixIt when you're posting on social media.

Coming Up!

- **Nov. 2** - Democracy Town Hall event w/ Marianne Williamson, 2 p.m., Rochester.
- **Nov. 7** - Staff Organizer training, GSPA
- **Nov. 12** - Book launch & lecture event for Larry Lessig's “They Don't Represent Us – Reclaiming Our Democracy, UNH 7-9
- **Nov. 14** - 6 pm, Regional Teams Leaders Planning Mtg and dinner, OD offices, 4 Park St, Ste 301, Concord.
- **Nov. 15** - 10 am, Gerrymandering and Redistricting presentation, Tad's Place, Heritage Havenwood Heights, Concord.
- **Nov. 25** - Granny D Legacy Committee, 10 am, Peterborough

No Stopping Us! 2020 Democracy Bills Filed

Despite vetoes of voting rights, redistricting, disclosure, and money-in-politics bills, reform legislators are already back at work, filing new bills or refiling vetoed bills.

CACR 9, a NH House resolution enshrining an independent redistricting commission into New Hampshire's constitution, is still active for the 2019 session, and was just amended and voted "ought to pass" in the House Election Law committee. Should it pass both houses, the NH Constitutional amendment would go to voters on the Nov. 2020 ballot for ratification, and would not require the governor's signature - an advantage given the Governor's track record. That said, the bill may have challenges in the full House and Senate.

The HB 706 independent redistricting commission bill has also been refiled for 2020 by its champion, Rep. Marjorie Smith. Given the bill's widespread bipartisan support in the legislature, supporters will be looking to the Governor to see what would be acceptable to him - and to the National Republican Redistricting Trust with whom he consulted prior to the veto.

Other bills being filed include a "corporate ban" bill, excluding corporations from making donations directly to candidates. Instead, corporations would be forced to use restricted funds for donating to political action committees. Currently, partnerships and unions may not make direct candidate contributions, but corporations may.

Also being proposed is a new Online Voter Registration system, to make it easier to register to vote in the state of New Hampshire.

Get Involved!

Our ODA Policy Committee could use a couple more members, given the number of bills we've been supporting at the State House. If you are detail-oriented, don't mind coming to Concord three times a month and want to make a BIG difference, this might be for you! Call [Steve Rand](tel:6032366587) at (603) 236-6587.

Granny D Legacy Committee Moving on a "Democracy Stage" in Peterborough, Granny D Plays in Spring 2020

Granny D: The Power of One
A one-woman play by Dixie Tymitz
- At age 90 Granny D walked across
America to get big money out of politics -



Doris "Granny D" Haddock
1910-2018
Legendary Campaign Finance
Reform Activist
Bentley Commons
197 Water St. Keene, NH
Saturday, October 6th at 3:00PM



Sponsored by Open Democracy: 603-715-9387

A Granny D Democracy Stage has been proposed by members of the Granny D Legacy Committee in the park in Peterborough where the Granny D Memorial Walk terminates. Members Peter Martel and Tom Westheimer have already met with the Peterborough town manager, and will be meeting with other town committees and staff to work out details of the project. The early discussions would create a small event stage in the park using a post & beam architecture similar to the picnic pavilion there.

"The Power of One," a play about Doris "Granny D" Haddock performed by Dixie Tymitz will be making a tour through New Hampshire again next spring. Dates for Milford, Nashua and Franklin have been confirmed, and several more dates and venues are in the process of being booked.

Democracy Town Hall Series Continues November 2

Best-selling author, activist and Presidential candidate Marianne Williamson headlines the next Democracy Town Hall Series event, this time Saturday, November 2, 2 pm, in Rochester, NH. Ms. Williamson has been outspoken on her demand for money-in-politics reforms, but this is a chance for voters to ask about important-but-wonky issues like the need for the electoral college, options for overturning Citizens United, pay-to-play politics, gerrymandering and other Democracy issues. This event will be moderated by Nick Nyhart, former director of Equal Voice, a national organization working on public financing of elections and other money in politics issues. [RSVP for the event at OpenDemocracyAction.org](https://www.opendemocracyaction.org).

A nonpartisan event hosted by Open Democracy Action & Equal Citizens

The Democracy Town Hall Series

Welcomes Author, Activist & Presidential Candidate
Marianne Williamson
Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 2 pm

Venue: Castle on the Charles, 10 Charles St., Rochester, NH

RSVP: [OpenDemocracyAction.org](https://www.opendemocracyaction.org)

Nov 2 Rochester 2 pm

Voting Rights - Voter Suppression - Citizens United - Money in Politics - Disclosure
L.L.C. Loopholes - Dark Money - Pay-to-Play - Lobbying Reform - Ranked Choice Voting
Voter-Owned Elections - Electoral College Reform - Winner-Take-All Elections
Plus YOUR Democracy questions

Open Democracy Action, with co-sponsor [Equal Citizens](#), have now hosted six events, including three in the last month. Governor Steve Bullock appeared in an Oct. 10 event moderated by Arnie



Arnesen of WNHN, former Congressman John Delaney with moderator Olivia Zink on Oct. 12 in Rochester, and just last weekend with former Governor William Weld in Nashua, moderated by Prof. Lawrence Lessig.

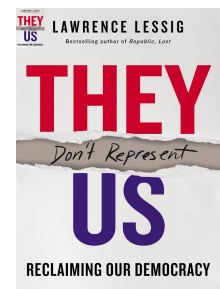


These events have been recorded, and you can find videos of Delaney and Weld at our [Open Democracy Action YouTube channel](#), and Gov. Bullock at the [Open Democracy Action Facebook page](#).

Look for other events coming up, as we are in conversations with other candidates.

Lessig Releases New Book, Speaking Nov. 12 in Durham

Harvard professor and money-in-politics reformer Lawrence Lessig releases his new book "They Don't Represent Us: Reclaiming Our Democracy" with a speech hosted by the Carsey School for Public Policy. The event is free, but an [RSVP is highly suggested](#). The event will be held Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the UNH Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics Auditorium (G75), starting at 7 p.m.



Can you afford \$10 a month for Democracy?

If you are able, consider making a sustaining membership donation to help with our cause, or a legacy gift to further the organization's long-term efforts. Call [Olivia Zink](#) at 603-715-8197 to find out more. You can also make a one-time donation anytime by visiting the websites for [Open Democracy](#) (501c3, tax deductible) or [Open Democracy Action](#) (501c4, not tax deductible). Thank you for supporting our work.

Make Our Wishes Come True!

A new regular feature of your Equal Voice newsletter is our "wish list." These are things the staff has identified would help our cause, make things more efficient, or fill a need. Promise, we won't ask for that staff meeting in Costa Rica!

- **Volunteer**, part or all of 1 day per week, to help update our NationBuilder database. We'll train you, and can be done partly at home.
- Good quality **digital video camera** for recording events, news conferences.
- Donation of \$500 or more to **underwrite purchase of incentives** for fundraising: Bumper stickers & magnets, allowing us to entice more small donors AND help spread the word.
- Working **32"+ flat screen TV** with HDMI input for video conferencing in the conference room (shared with Peace Action, AFSC and other groups).
- Doreen's raw fingers have asked for a letter folder/envelope stuffer
- Oh, and while we're at it, we wish for the end of Big Money politics!



Copyright 2019,
Open Democracy Action
4 Park Street, Suite 301, Concord, NH 03301
603-715-8197